

For immediate release  
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## **REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM FINED \$33,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES**

WHITBY — The Regional Municipality of Durham (Durham) has been fined \$33,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to a total of three charges under the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Ontario Water Resources Act.

Durham operates a water supply treatment plant and distribution system that serves approximately 94,000 people in the Town of Whitby. On January 19, 2005, a ministry inspection of these systems and logs indicated there was a loss of alum flow for about six hours on June 16, 2004 at the treatment plant. Alum is a coagulant that binds itself to impurities and aids in the treatment process. The court was told that, while the alum flow valves had accidentally been shut off, at no time did the turbidity levels in the water being supplied pose a risk to consumers of the water. Durham was charged with violating Section 1-2(2)(1) of Schedule 1 of Regulation 170/03 under the Safe Drinking Water Act, which requires that drinking water equipment is in operation whenever water is obtained or supplied, and was fined \$10,000.

Durham also operates a water supply system in Blackstock that has a Permit To Take Water from the ministry. A routine ministry inspection in early 2004 revealed that beginning on October 1 and ending December 31, 2003, samples were not analysed for all the parameters required by the permit. However, Durham was charged for the month of January 2004 with failure to carry out analysis for inorganic parameters as required by Section 107(3) of the Ontario Water Resources Act and fined \$8,000.

In addition, the Cannington water system is operated by Durham. In early 2004, a ministry inspection indicated that Durham did not collect weekly raw water microbiological samples from all wells in the water system between July 1 and December 31, 2003. The samples were taken for operational wells, but not non-production wells. Durham was charged under Section 10-4(2) of Ontario Regulation 170/03 of the Safe Drinking Water Act for not carrying out a requirement that samples be taken from all wells in a drinking water system and fined \$15,000.

Durham pled guilty to these three offences after charges were laid by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch.

Justice of the Peace Jack Wiley rendered the decision in the Ontario Court of Justice in Whitby, Ontario, on March 27, 2006.

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